



Israel A. Smith Constitutional Convention Papers (C0026)

Collection Number: C0026

Collection Title: Israel A. Smith Constitutional Convention Papers

Dates: 1943-1944

Creator: Smith, Israel A., 1876-1958

Abstract: Letters and papers of a Republican delegate from the 5th senatorial district. Smith was chairman of the Committee on Public Health and Public Welfare and Federal Relations with Respect Thereto, and served on the Committees on Initiative and Referendum and on Printing, Reporting and Publications.

Collection Size: 2.5 cubic feet
(144 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](http://www.shsmo.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Israel A. Smith on October 26, 1944 (Accession No. CA0167).

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Historical Note:

Israel A. Smith was born at Plano, Illinois. He moved to Lamoni, Iowa, in 1881, and attended Graceland College in Lamoni for two years. Smith served in various civic offices and as a member of the 34th General Assembly of Iowa in 1912-1913. He was admitted to the Iowa Bar in 1912 and the Missouri Bar in 1913. Smith practiced law in Independence, Missouri from 1913-1938 when he became a member of the Presidency of Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following two series:

Committees
Miscellaneous Papers and Correspondence

Scope and Content Note:

More complete series descriptions are located in the container list.

Container List:

Committees Series

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| f. 1-17 | Committee on Public Health and Public Welfare and Federal Relations with Respect Thereto |
| f. 2-4 | Ballots on different sections, various drafts of files of public welfare and statements on proposals. Folder 3 contains a memorandum by Allen McReynolds. |
| f. 5-7 | Provisions for various states constitutions public health and public welfare matters. |
| f. 9 | Statement of purpose and benefits of Proposal 210 by O. C. Lee. |
| f. 11 | Paper on federal bureaucracy by O. C. Lee |
| f. 11-13 | Bulletins published by Missouri Public Expenditure Survey, Missouri Association for Social Welfare, Missouri League of Women Voters, and Governmental Research Institute. |
| f. 14 | Material and control |
| f. 15 | <i>Manual on Federal-State Relations</i> for Missouri Constitutional Convention of 1943 |
| f. 16-17 | Minutes of committee meetings |

- f. 18-37 Committee on Public Health and Public Welfare. Letters of appraisal on the proposals before this committee and suggestions by the St. Louis and Kansas City Chambers of Commerce and Missouri Association for Social Welfare. Letters concerning proposals. Correspondence pertaining to the Majority and Minority Reports of the Committee. Correspondence urging recreation of Department of Public Health and Welfare.
 - f. 19 Memorandum on the court and legislative aspects
 - f. 21 Letter from Judge John Schmook (Springfield) urging court limitations of divorces
 - f. 23 Letter by Allen McReynolds clarifying his position on various proposals
 - f. 28 Letter from Missouri Real Estate Association protesting increased general property tax to pay blind persons
 - f. 30 Letter of chiropractor urging medical liberty
 - f. 37 Miscellaneous clippings
- f. 38-43 Committee on Education
 - f. 38-39 File of bulletins on public school support and public libraries
 - f. 40 Manual on Education for the Constitutional Convention
 - f. 41 Letters from Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. Letter from The Urban League of St. Louis, Incorporated opposing reference to race. Public school letters from Citizens Council for Missouri libraries urging state support of public libraries.
 - f. 42 September, 1944 *School and Community* dealing especially with education and the state constitutional convention or 1943-1944.
 - f. 43 Issues of *Missouri Schools* published by state department of education from September, 1943 to September, 1944.
- f. 44-54 Committee on Preamble, Boundaries, Bill of Rights and Distribution of Powers. Reports on file, proposals, subcommittee and committee reports, material regarding free speech. Copy of a speech on ratification on constitutional amendments. Material on civil liberty. Correspondence regarding various proposals particularly those pertaining to racial discrimination, libel action, religious freedom, and excessive condemnation. Memorandum on Proposal 183 to permit depositions to be taken in criminal cases and Proposal 184 to permit a verdict of 5/6 of jury in felony cases.
- f. 55-58 Committee on Initiative and Referendum. Papers and letters pertaining to the work of this committee.
 - f. 55 Memorandum on the Initiative and Referendum
 - f. 56 Questionnaire on the subject, committee reports, publication by the Missouri League of Women Voters.
 - f. 57 *Manual on the Amending Procedure and the Initiative and Referendum* for the Constitutional Convention of 1943
 - f. 58 Reports on File 4 of this committee, Kansas City Chamber of Commerce letter of appraisal.
- f. 59-64 Committee on Judicial Department

- f. 59 Publications by Missouri League of Women Voters and Missouri Public Expenditure Survey pertaining to the Judiciary
- f. 60-61 Discussion on Proposal about selection and election of certain judges
- f. 61-63 Letters in favor on nonpartisan Court Plan and for and against the merit system and short ballot
- f. 61 Missouri Probate Judge's Association regarding certain proposals relating to probate judges and their qualifications and a treatise on the subject by Glendy B. Arnold, Probate Judge, City of St. Louis
- f. 64 Reports on File 5 of this committee, a publication of the Missouri Bar Association and others on the Nonpartisan Court Plan
- f. 65-70 Committee on Miscellaneous Provisions. Correspondence and papers pertaining to the work of this committee. Some correspondence concerning the proposal regarding local option. Correspondence from finance companies regarding constitutional limits on interest rates of small loan companies and reprints of various editorials on the subject. Statement of James G. Conzelman, Assistant to the President, American Investment Company, opposing constitutional limits on interest rates.
- f. 71-82 Committee on Taxation, Levy, Assessment, and Collection
 - f. 71 1919 Constitutional Convention bulletin on state and local finance for Illinois
 - f. 72 Bulletin on rural real estate assessment on Missouri Expenditure Survey publications on taxation.
 - f. 75-81 Correspondence dealing largely with constitutional provision for public libraries, recreation and museums, homestead exemption letters for and against increases local rates of taxation on property for schools and other public purposes. Letters from railway companies opposing sub-classification of property for taxation purposes. Taxation of intangibles in Missouri and other states.
 - f. 82 Convention Journal and committee reports
- f. 83-88 Committee on Agriculture and Conservation
 - f. 83 Amendments, proposals with analyses
 - f. 84 Statements to the committee on Agriculture and Conservation by E. S. Stephens, Chairman of Missouri Conservation Committee and I. T. Bode, Director of Missouri Conservation Committee.
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 - f. 86 1942-1943 reports of the Missouri Conservation Commission
 - f. 87 Publication by the United States Department of Agriculture and Forest Service and Missouri Conservation Commission on Missouri Forests
 - f. 88 Resolutions and letters urging no change in the 1936 state conservation amendment or the Conservation Commission

- f. 89-98 Committee on Local Government
 - f. 89-90 Research bulletins on local government
 - f. 91 Material on proportional representation
 - f. 92 Bulletin on county government by Missouri League of Women Voters
 - f. 93 *County Government Manual* for committee
 - f. 94 Missouri Public Expenditure Survey bulletin on county government
 - f. 95 Letters from Kansas City Chamber of Commerce: regarding proposals before this committee, especially consolidation home rule charters
 - f. 96-97 Correspondence from Eastwood Hills Community Association of Jackson County protesting annexation of unincorporated communities without consent of majority of owners.
 - f. 98 Correspondence urging elimination of fee system for law enforcement officers
- f. 99-105 Committee on Local Government (City or St. Louis, St. Louis County and Jackson County)
 - f. 99 Summary report of a survey by the Governmental Research Institute on "The Government or the City of St. Louis"
 - f. 100 University of Missouri study on "The Movement for Municipal Home Rule in St. Louis"
 - f. 101 "Metropolitan Problems of St. Louis and St. Louis County" with reports on plans and practices in eight other metropolitan communities
 - f. 102-103 Correspondence pertaining to abolition of fees, changing boundaries, consolidation, blighted areas and letters of appraisal from the Kansas City and St. Louis Chambers of Commerce
- f. 104-106 Committee on Legislative Department. Papers, bulletins and correspondence pertaining to the work of this committee.
 - f. 104 File 17 of this committee and miscellaneous papers on reorganization of state legislature.
 - f. 105 Bulletin for the Missouri Constitutional Convention of 1943, "The Structure of the legislature: Bicameralism versus Unicameralism"
 - f. 106 Mostly correspondence regarding a unicameral legislature with references to that of Nebraska: letters presenting a cross section of what businessmen of Nebraska think of their one-house legislature.
- f. 107-109 Committee on State Finance (Except Taxation), Expenditures, Public Indebtedness and Restrictions Thereon. Papers and correspondence pertaining to the work of this committee.
 - f. 107 Missouri Public Expenditure Survey on budget control and Missouri League of Women Voters bulletin on "School Organization and Finance"
 - f. 108-109 Correspondence: the power of the General Assembly to grant

- public money, centralized purchasing, public utility revenue bonds, pensions, letters of appraisal of the file of this committee by St. Louis and Kansas City Chambers of Commerce.
- f. 110-112 Committee on Suffrage and Elections. Bulletins, papers and correspondence of this committee.
- f. 110 Constitutional Convention bulletin on "The Short Ballot"
- f. 111 *Manual on the Bill of Rights and Suffrage and Elections*
- f. 112 Soldier's Absentee Voting Laws, letter of appraisal of the proposals before this committee by the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.
- f. 113-117 Committee on Executive Department. Bulletins, papers and correspondence of this committee.
- f. 113 File 16 of this committee and Missouri League of Women Voters publications on Administrative reorganization.
- f. 114 *Manual on the Executive Article*
- f. 115 Missouri Public Expenditure Survey publications on the Executive Department
- f. 116-117 Kansas City and St. Louis Chamber of Commerce letters of appraisal, letter from the M.F.A. urging that the Constitution give no authority to the Governor to reduce any appropriations for free public education, letters regarding the Governor's power to pardon but not to parole and the merit system.
- f. 118-120 Committee on Highways. Bulletins and correspondence regarding the work of this committee.
- f. 118 File 18 of this committee and bulletin by Federal Works Agency on "Public Control of Highway Access and Roadside Development"
- f. 119 "History of Missouri Highway Department" by the Missouri State Highway Department
- f. 120 Letters from the M.F.A. and Automobile Clubs of Missouri and others with reference to File 18, especially the power of the regulation of access to state highways.
- f. 121 Committee on Labor. Letters and papers pertaining to the work of this committee. Letters from labor interests in favoring the rights of labor to organize and bargain collectively and the closed shop, and opposing compelling labor unions to incorporate. Letters from the Council of Kansas City, St. Louis and Missouri League of Women Voters and opposing the permitting of political activity on the part of public employees.
- f. 122-123 Committee on Corporations and Industry. Bulletins and correspondence of this committee.
- f. 122 *Report to Missouri Bar Association for Missouri constitutional Convention Concerning General Business Corporations*
- f. 123 Missouri Public Expenditure Survey publication on Corporations, Kansas City and St. Louis Chamber of Commerce letters of comment on File 9 of this committee, letter from the

- Brotherhood of Locomotive Enginemen urging that employees of transportation companies who have passes be allowed to hold municipal offices by amending that part of the Constitution which prohibits public officers having passes.
- f. 124 Committee on Military Affairs. The file of this Committee and a Missouri Public Expenditure Survey publication on the State Militia.
- f. 125 Committee on Congressional, State, Senatorial and Representative Districts. File 21 of this committee a pamphlet entitled "A Solution to the Senatorial Redistricting Problem." Letter from Louis A. Laughlin, Kansas City attorney-at-law urging changes so that Jackson County is given its rightful representation in the legislature.
- f. 126 Committee on Impeachments and Removals from Office. File 3, report of this committee and reports of the committee 23 on Phraseology, Arrangement and Engrossment on this committee.
- f. 127 Committee on Printing, Reporting and Publications. Routine correspondence from Leo T. Daniels, Chairman of this committee to Israel A. Smith and a report of this committee.

Miscellaneous Papers and Correspondence Series

- f. 128-131 Smith, Israel A. and R. E. Blake Correspondence. Routine correspondence to and from president of the convention, R. E. Blake and I. A. Smith: mechanics of the convention, especially that pertinent to the Committee on Public Health and Public Welfare and Federal Relations with respect thereto of which Smith was chairman.
- f. 132-157 Miscellaneous papers and correspondence: various phases of the work of the convention
- f. 132 Lists of Republican and Democratic delegates, tabulation of amendments proposed to Missouri Constitution of 1875, including 21 proposed by Constitutional Convention of 1922-1923, "Text of the New Soviet Constitution."
- f. 133 Editorial reprint on Communism and civil liberties, copy of speech by Isidor M. Loeb to the Missouri League of Women Voters on "Revision of the State Constitution."
- f. 134 Letter from D.W. Gramling, Chairman of the Legislative Board for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers protesting the unfair set-up in the choice of delegates-at-large to the convention, a letter from the United Workers for the Blind of Missouri relating to the financing of pensions for the blind.
- f. 135 "Story of the Constitution of Missouri"
- f. 136 Letters of appraisal from the Kansas City and St. Louis Chambers of Commerce on various proposals before the convention
- f. 137 "A Suggested Constitution for Missouri" presented by Fred Naeter, material on racial discrimination by the NAACP.
- f. 138-143 Miscellaneous Bulletins

- f. 138 State of Illinois *Digest of Constitutional Convention Proposals*, 1920
- f. 139 *Constitution Conventions in Illinois*
- f. 140 *State Government*, August 1938, published by the Council of State Governments
- f. 141 *Current Ideas in State Legislatures*, United States Government Printing Office, Washington, 1942
- f. 142 *A State Plan for Missouri*, final report, 1943, by Missouri State Planning Board
- f. 143 *Organizational Manual for the Missouri Constitutional Convention of 1943*
- f. 144 Clippings. Miscellaneous clippings pertaining to the work of the Missouri State Constitutional Convention of 1943-1944.

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